

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18391

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP, OEXC, PGOV, UR, US
SUBJ: SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION: MEETING WITH PONOMAREV

REF: STATE 303169 AND PREVIOUS

1. I WAS RECEIVED BY PONOMAREV DECEMBER 21, DURING
MID-DAY BREAK IN SESSION OF RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET.
IN DISCUSSING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO US, IT BECAME
CLEAR THAT HE HAD NOT FOCUSED ON THE TENTATIVE ITINERARY
FOR THE TRIP, NOR HAD HE DISCUSSED IT IN ANY DETAIL
WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION.

2. AT MY REQUEST, PONORMAREV UNDERTOOK TO GIVE ME
SPECIFIC PROPOSALS REGARDING HIS PROGRAM IN THE US IN
TWO OR THREE DAYS, AND IN ANY CASE PRIOR TO MY
DECEMBER 30 DEPARTURE FROM THE USSR. HE OFFERED THE
FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY COMMENTS:
-- HE HOPED THE DELEGATION WOULD BE ABLE TO USE ITS
AIRCRAFT FOR TRAVEL WITHIN THE US (I ASSURED HIM THAT
WOULD BE NO PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NEED THE USUAL
DATA ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT AND ITS CREW);
-- OF COURSE THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS
DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH MEMBERS
OF CONGRESS AND WITH THE US ADMINISTRATION: PONOMAREV
ASSUMED HIS MAIN INTERLOCUTORS WOULD BE MEMBERS OF
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THE
HOUSE AND SENATE WHO DEAL PRIMARILY WITH FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, ALTHOUGH HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH (HE POINTEDLY
NOTED THAT IN 1975 BREZHNEV HAD RECEIVED TWO
US "PARLIAMENTARY" DELEGATIONS -- E.G., CODELS
HUMPHREY/SCOTT AND ALBERT):

-- HE THOUGH FOUR DAYS WOULD SUFFICE FOR TALKS IN WASHINGTON (AS PRESENTLY PLANNED);
-- HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO ARRANGE A SEPARATE MEETING BETWEEN MRS. PUKHOVA AND FEMALE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:
-- HE CONFESSED HE HAD NOT DECIDED ABOUT FURTHER TRAVEL IN THE US: HE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO HOUSTON AND PERHAPS LOS ANGELES, BEFORE HEADING BACK VIA NEW YORK: HOWEVER, SOME MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION HAD SUSGGESTED A VISIT TO CHICAGO: SINCE HE HAD VISITED SAN FRANCISCO IN 1974, HE THOUGHT IT BETTER NOT TO VISIT THAT CITY ON THIS TRIP.

3. I TOLD PONOMAREV THAT WHILE I DID NOT KNOW THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE, I WAS SURE THAT MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL MEETINGS WITH HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WOULD BE ARRANGED.

4. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO NOTE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED ME TO GET TO KNOW THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP, AND THAT WHILE I HAD MET MR. BREZHNEV ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, AND WELCOMED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PONOMAREV, I WOULD APPRECIATE HIS HELP IN MEETING OTHERS AMONG THIS POLITBURO COLLEAGUES. PONOMAREV SAID HE WOULD PASS THIS ALONG, AND WE COULD TALK ABOUT IT FURTHER UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE US. FRANKLY, HE
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ADDED, SUCH MEETINGS "WILL DEPEND LARGELY UPON THE OUTCOME OF MY VISIT TO THE US." THE DELEGATION WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUE, BUT HOPES TO FOCUS ON QUESTIONS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND DISARMAMENT. "SOME QUESTIONS" (CLEARLY HE HAD IN MIND HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS) HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AND "WE HOPE THEY WILL NOT BE RAISED AGAIN." (OF COURSE I GAVE HIM NO ASSURANCES ON THIS SCORE.)
TOON

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